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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

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CITY EDITION

Carmel officials' paid leave raises questions

School board mum on Wahl, Middleton moves

Emma Kate Fittes
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

CARMEL – Two top Carmel Clay administrators have been on paid leave for more than two months — an unusually long amount of time according to a local employment attorney.

Superintendent Nicholas Wahl and Human Resources Director Corrine Middleton were put on leave in October pending a school board review of district administration. Since then five public board meetings and four executive sessions related to "job performance" have passed without any public update.

Nicholas Wahl

Meanwhile, Wahl and Middleton continue to receive their six-figure salaries.

Paid leave typically lasts a few days or a couple weeks, said local employment attorney Stephanie Jane Hahn.

"Typically, employers that engage in investigations of employees or employee misconduct, in particular, those employers that have put employees on a paid administrative leave, want to move as quickly and efficiently as possible," she said told IndyStar in an email Thursday. "In my experience, investigations can take one to two days or several weeks."

Hahn isn't privy to the situation in Carmel specifically but talked about paid administrative leave in general.

"Many times the lengthier investigations involve multiple workplaces and individuals," she said. "Or they involve multiple complaints made by multiple people ... that need to be sorted out."

When asked if the review now involved any other employees or administrators, Carmel Clay referred IndyStar back to the board's original statement in October, which said Wahl was on leave and no further comment would be given until the review is complete.

Spokeswoman Courtney Taylor said Thursday the review is still ongoing, but "nearing completion." There is no set date for completion, she said. A decision likely won't come until January because the board doesn't have another meeting scheduled for December.

The extended timeline caused one community member, Eric Morris, to question whether the district has too many administrators because it has

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Golden Arches for this golden woman

Dorothy Fletcher, right, who will turn 100 on Saturday, dines with granddaughter Laura Fletcher. ROBERT SCHEER/INDYSTAR

Centenarian makes eating at McDonald's a habit

Maureen C. Gilmer
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

NOBLESVILLE – At first glance, the woman in the stylish veiled hat might look out of place at McDonald's. But Dorothy Fletcher of Noblesville is right at home amid the lunchtime crowd. A week shy of her 100th birthday, she's a regular at the fast-food restaurant. And the former hairdresser always wears a chic hat.

She's been dressed and ready for this lunch for hours, her daughter-in-law says. Her nails are perfectly manicured, sporting glittery gold polish.

On this day, she's eating a cheeseburger, drinking a lemonade and taking a trip down memory lane at the Village Center Drive restaurant that's practically in her backyard. That's by design. She agreed to move to Pebble Brook Village Apartments a few months ago because she could almost see the Golden Arches from her patio. Now she can eat there daily if she chooses.

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Congressional leaders have so far been handling sexual harassment allegations as each one arises. KYLE GRANTHAM/DELAWARE NEWS JOURNAL

Bracing for the flood of harassment allegations

Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle are facing rumors of coming allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct. Though there is a process set up to take reports, there is no set way for the leadership to address each case, so officials have been working on each as they arose.

A former House counsel, Stanley Brand, said that between the lack of a formal process and the growing number of cases, "the rules are going out the window."

Rep. Gregg Harper, the chairman of the House Administration Committee, has said he plans to introduce amendments to a 1995 law that would handle the reporting and settlement process.

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